

## **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

January 7, 2015

**Teleconference Meeting - Those on-line:** Betty Allen, Dale Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Bob Littlehale, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

1. Minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting were approved as written.
2. Treasurer's Report (Bob) – The Main Checking account is at \$27,660.29 and the Lloyds account is at \$1,888.73 for a total of \$29,549.02. The initial results from the Fall Concert show a loss of \$608.66, and John will send the expenses that he has to Bob.

The Pinewoods Benefit Ball showed a profit of \$1024.26. It was proposed and accepted to round up to \$1025 to send to Pinewoods.

Music subsidies of \$365 each were moved and approved for the Brookline Class, the Nashua Class, and the Cambridge Class.

3. Reports from Liaisons –
  - a) Fall Concert (John) – Robert McOwen has agreed to be the Artistic Director for the 2015 concert. The proposed date is November 7, 2015, but the contract has not yet been signed. This date conflicts with Fiddle Hell, and John reports that the prior weekend and the following weekend were not available at the Museum. John will check to see if November 21<sup>st</sup> is a possible date. Linda asked if maybe something could be done in conjunction with Fiddle Hell, and John will discuss this with Robert.  
Robert has suggested a local Celtic Music Ensemble as the band for the Concert. A couple of other musicians/bands were suggested.
  - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – The application has been posted after a few changes. Lois New will be doing the Welcome Dance Program. The co-chairs have sent e-mail messages to last year's attendees and will be doing a photo display similar to last year's.
  - c) Pinewoods Benefit Ball (Betty) – As was agreed upon a couple of months ago, the Salem Class will take on the responsibility for planning and putting on the Pinewoods Benefit Ball. They are working on the plans and hope to have a flyer ready by Pinewoods Sessions this summer. The location will be at the church with a potluck dinner and not at the Old Town Hall.
  - d) ESC (Jeremy) – ESC Committee member Dan Blim reports that many of the staff have been hired – Jamie Berg, James Gray, Anna Rain, Brooks Findlay,

and Karen Axelrod as the music director. Stephen Thomforde will present the formal budget to Exec. at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, and publicity should be out at the end of the month.

- e) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – The class grid, similar to that used in the past, will be reviewed by the Teaching and Music Committee. The camper teachers that will be utilized will be selected along the same model as the camper musicians. Graham Donald and Linda Henderson will be doing some of the Teacher’s Choice classes but most will be by the camper teachers. The search is also on to find a space for jam sessions. The post card announcing Scottish Sessions is being handed out and the application will be coming soon.
- f) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – Terry Traub will be the Music Director, and Cecily Selling and Beth Birdsall will be two of the teachers. The third teacher should be confirmed soon.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) –
  - Betty is collecting the evening dance programs for Scottish Sessions so they can be reviewed by TMC.
  - Barbara McOwen was planning to do a music workshop for new musicians, but that is on hold.
  - The webmasters will be meeting with the TMC on January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss placing TMC documents on the open Branch Web Site, not the members-only site.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – The next edition will be about one week late. Critical items are not necessarily being sent to the editors. There were two discrepancies in the class listing (the pdf and the web versions), and Barbara is trying to confirm the contacts and other information. If there are changes in the way a class should be listed, both versions need to be updated.
- i) Demonstration Team (Alex) – The team is performing two gigs on January 10<sup>th</sup>, first at the BCMFest in Cambridge and then at the Ancient Universities Alumni Burns Nicht at the Omni Parker House in Boston.
- j) Membership (Dale) - As of January 3rd, there were 231 Branch members plus 15 associate members. Of these, 203 members plus all the associate members requested to receive communications electronically. In addition, 32 members paid the \$10.00 fee to receive a hard copy of the *Tartan Times*. To date, 47 who were members last year have not renewed. There are 20 first-time Branch members and one first-time associate member.  
The question was asked of when the directories will be out and also why the membership cards are delayed. Dale will check on these issues.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – The Committee is hard at work to provide a slate of candidates.

- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – The webmasters have been receiving conflicting information and therefore would appreciate if there was a single contact person for each class or event. Information should be sent directly to the webmaster address. Kat will draft a reminder notice for the contact people. The webmasters have also emphasized that it is not their job to proofread but oftentimes there are errors requiring corrections and therefore re-posting of the information. The webmasters would like to talk about the website and communications with the Branch.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- n) Class liaisons –
  - Brookline, MA (Kat) – The Holiday Party was held on December 21<sup>st</sup> and the Twelfth Night Party on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Cambridge, MA (Kat) – Lance Ramshaw and Karen Sollins led the class in December and Robert McOwen and Jen Schoonover will be leading in January. The Holiday Party had a great turnout. The class is looking to purchase a new mixer for their sound system.
  - Fairlee, VT (Dale) – Six members of the class attended the New Year’s Day Party in Nashua. The new younger members of the class add excitement and fun.
  - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The October 17<sup>th</sup> party was a great success, and the class is resuming their schedule following the holidays. The class would like to see a presence of Scottish Country Dancing at the New Hampshire Highland Games, starting with an exhibit. Loren Wright and Gary Apfel have shown an interest but admit that it is hard to get people to participate. Perhaps a notice in the *Tartan Times* and on Beth Murray’s listing would encourage people to help. In the past, dancers have had to contend with concrete floors and the Games people have not necessarily been hospitable to us. We need more information from the Highland Games about how we can contribute.
  - Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The class is resuming following the holidays and already planning for the Downeast Fling to be held on June 13, 2015.
  - Great Barrington, MA (Alex) – The class is running a blurb in the local paper to help generate interest.
  - Nashua, NH (Linda) – The New Year’s Day Party was a great success.

#### 4. Old Business –

- a) Coordinating the insurance year and membership year -  
The membership date has been coordinated with the membership co-chairs

as follows: (<http://www.rscdsboston.org/membersonly/By-Laws.pdf>)

The By-Laws currently state:

ARTICLE II. – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- II.B. The Society's membership year runs from the first day of September of each year through the thirty-first of August of the following year. For a new member joining between June 1st and August 31st of a calendar year, the initial membership year shall continue through August 31st of the following calendar year. Memberships are renewable annually. If a renewing member does not pay dues on or before the first of December of the membership year, his or her membership shall cease as of that date.

The proposed change would read:

ARTICLE II. – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- II.B. The Society's membership year runs from the first day of **October** of each year through the **thirtieth of September** of the following year. For a new member joining between **July 1st and September 30th** of a calendar year, the initial membership year shall continue through **September 30th** of the following calendar year. Memberships are renewable annually. If a renewing member does not pay dues on or before the first of **November** of the membership year, his or her membership shall cease as of that date.

This proposed By-Laws change requires membership approval and should be sent out as soon as possible. After approval from the membership, Exec can approve the policy change. The fiscal year will not change. This proposal was moved by Bob, seconded by Betty, and unanimously approved.

5. New Business (none)
6. Next Meeting – January 28 at Bob's